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General Counsel

9 February 1950

Budget Officer

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Reduced Rate Round-trip Tickets Between the United States and Foreign Countries.

REF : Memorandum from the Acting Chief, Finance Division, dated 26 January 1950.

1. Paragraph 16 of the Standardized Government Travel Regulations reads as follows: "Through tickets, excursion tickets, reduced rate round-trip or party tickets should be secured whenever practicable and economical". Among the several decisions which have been rendered on this subject, there is for consideration the comments made in Volume 26, Comptroller General's Decisions, page 787. It will be noted that the General Accounting Office has indicated that an employee of the Government is required to adhere to the provisions of paragraph 16, Standardized Government Travel Regulations, after an election or determination has been made as to the mode of travel on the "going" end of the trip whenever it is more economical to do so and the question of "impracticability" is not involved.

2. It is realized that the question of practicability must be determined on the merits of each case and in some cases, with respect to foreign travel, the procurement of a round-trip ticket would not be feasible from the standpoint of the Government or might be inadvisable from a security or other viewpoint even though otherwise available to the traveler. However, this office finds no basis for concluding that as a general rule the requirements with respect to the procurement of reduced rate round-trip tickets should not be applied to travel outside the United States in the same manner as to travel within the continental limits of the United States. In this regard it is to be noted that in some cases from a budgetary viewpoint considerable additional savings might accrue due to the fact that we now have authority to transport dependents at Government expense and they are entitled to travel per diem allowances when authorized to travel with the CIA official concerned on home leave. In this respect it would appear advisable, as a matter of general policy, to induce CIA officials and/or their dependents to travel via commercial air facilities when traveling in connection with home leave or when the CIA official is performing travel to or from the United States on TDY.

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3. It is believed that the pertinent travel regulations and decisions of the Comptroller General reduced rate round-trip procurement action need be taken until such time it mandatory to take a definite position.

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determination as to the initial mode of travel which might normally be required as an Agency practice due to the need for effecting a saving in appropriated funds.

E. R. BAUNDERS

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cc: Acting Chief, Finance Div.
Acting Chief, Fiscal Div.
Signer's Copy